

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 3 APRIL 2018 AT 6.30 PM
IN THE TOWN HALL, ASHLEY ROAD, NEW MILTON**

Councillors: p G C Beck p R A Reid
 p G R Blunden A W Rice
 p S J Clarke p D A Rice-Mundy – Chair
 p K E Craze – Vice Chair p A D O’Sullivan
 R B Dagnall p Mrs V E Schooling
 p S P Davies p S P Short
 p W Davies p D N Tungate
 p D E Hawkins p J G Ward
 B Murrow Mrs C Hexter

In Attendance: Officers: G P Flexman - Town Clerk
 Joanna Hayward – Administrator

The Chairman welcomed councillors, members of the public and a press representative to the meeting.

The Chairman also welcomed Inspector Beale and PC Budd to the meeting and they provided an update on activity during the last 90 days. Inspector Beale confirmed that there were 383 occurrences with no major crime to note. Missing person’s reports continued from the local children’s homes. The police were continuing to work with partners in particular Operation Swift, Rail Network, Licensing and Pub Watch and working with schools supporting internet safety, drugs awareness and exploitation awareness. Inspector Beale was pleased to report that one extra PC would be employed at New Milton in April.

Cllr S Clarke referred to Speedwatch and the lack of activity due to policy and insurance issues which Inspector Beale believed to be resolved by Lymington Police Station. He will check with colleagues there.

Cllr J Ward referred to the past exercise at Manor Road involving police, DVLA and NFDC and asked if this could happen again due to the return of inconsiderate parking and untaxed vehicles in this area.

Cllr Clarke referred to the Safety Net and RMS systems and if these could be available for the Youth Coordinator to use in-house. Inspector Beale acknowledged that Safety Net could improve intelligence and communications if used by all, but RMS is for internal use only.

118. APOLOGIES

Cllrs R Murrow, A Rice, C Hexter and R Dagnall

119. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Chairman invited Cllr G Beck to acknowledge the passing of former councillors John Hutchins and Margaret Lloyds and to remember their public service. This was followed by a minute's silence.

The Chairman reviewed the Mayor's Engagements for February/March 2018.

24-Feb	Ocean Brothers Music Event	Memorial Centre
09-Mar	Christchurch Mayor Charity Gala Dinner	Christchurch Harbour Hotel
10-Mar	NMRA AGM	Community Centre
10-Mar	NFDC Chairman Charity Concert	Ringwood School
16-Mar	NM Mayors Charity Ball	Hoburne Bashley
18-Mar	NM Music Festival	Arnewood School
26-Mar	Scarf AGM	Forest Arts Centre

The Vice-Chairman had attended the following engagements.

24-Feb	Young Artists Exhibition presentation	St Barbe Lymington
12-Mar	Flying the Commonwealth flag	HCC Winchester
26-Mar	A Plastic Ocean film screening	Durlston Court School

120. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A O'Sullivan pertaining to agenda item 15 Neighbourhood Plan, being Chief Executive of the Gryphon Trust.

The Town Clerk informed members that they had a duty to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan, but NFDC had not issued a blanket dispensation as such and members need to declare any interests accordingly.

121. MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the meetings held on 19 February and 12 March 2018

And it was

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 19 February and 12 March 2018, having been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes were duly signed.

122. CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk referred to the following –

- a. A customer services enquiry via NFDC from a resident who was concerned about the downhill slide of New Milton with empty buildings that were eyesores. Councillors agreed that everybody has a different viewpoint and that the Chairman would respond to the complainant.
- b. A letter from a Sway resident regarding the rail service and comments which will be circulated to members with these minutes.

123. QUESTIONS

None

124. REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

HCC Cllr M Kendal referred to Children's Services in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and acknowledged the good work they do, and working with other counties for a fee. Nursing care at home and in the community was discussed as well as establishing a Dementia Hub. Supported living for elderly, frail, disabled and mental health conditions was important as is the modernisation of homes and making good use of technology which will be costing £96m more overall.

Cllr Beck asked about bus passes as local residents were concerned. Cllr Kendal said these would be protected as it is a national legislation to provide, but bus subsidies could be reduced locally. In autumn, there is a consultation from the HCC transport group.

Cllr J Ward had nothing to report.

Cllr S Clarke reported had visited the PCC offices to review commissioner's budgets which are quite complex. He also attended the Homelessness Task & Finish Group which will be a real challenge to undertake. Cllr A Reid asked how many families were homeless and there are currently 35 across the New Forest district.

Cllr Mrs V Schooling asked about the Police commissioner's budget which Cllr Clarke will advise further on outside of the meeting.

Cllr G Blunden had nothing to report.



Cllr A O'Sullivan was involved in Communities, Corporate, Audit and Property Task & Finish Groups and reviewing CAB and grants generally.

Cllr S Davies was involved in the same Task and Finish Group looking at the great work that CAB do including supporting the Universal Credit roll out.

Cllr N Tungate had nothing to report.

Cllr G Beck had attended some of the meetings already mentioned.

125. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Planning Committee

Cllr S Clarke, Chairman of the Planning Committee submitted the minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 8, 15 and 29 March 2018.

Cllr Clarke referred to minute 254 and asked councillors to note that notices would be coming up about the proposed crematorium that will generate a lot of public interest.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 225-256 inclusive be received.

b. Amenities Committee

Cllr D Hawkins, Vice-Chairman of the Amenities Committee submitted the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 5 March 2018.

Cllr G Blunden referred to minute 116 (b) and informed members that the Battles Over event would not be taking place at Longmeadow on 11 November 2018.

He also referred to minute 117 and stated that the experimental order allowing street traders on the footpath had increased footfall and it is now a vibrant activity.

Cllr Beck provided an update to minute 118 and shared an example of the artwork for the Indian Memorial information board as well as the souvenir programme and informed members

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 110-126 inclusive be received.

c. Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr S Davies, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee submitted the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Meeting held on 19 March 2018.

Cllr Blunden referred to minute 113 and the formation of a working party to consider a Youth Foundation charity and invited members to register their interest to participate.

The Town Clerk provided an update to minute 117 as Zurich had made an improved offer of £13,449 for a five year deal on the insurance which members were please to accept.

It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes 101-118 inclusive be received.

126. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Payments endorsed by the F&GP Committee on 19 March 2018 was submitted for Council approval.

It was unanimously

RESOLVED:

That the Schedule of Payments No 08/17/18 in the sum of £68,822.00 for the period 1-31 January 2018 be approved.

The Schedule was duly signed.

127. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Cllr Beck had attended a HALC meeting on 10 March 2018 when one of the agenda items was the East Hampshire Parish Charter which was discussed and will be considered at the next NFALC meeting that takes place on 19 April 2018 at Appletree Court.

128. TOWN DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

The Chairman referred to the written report from the Town Development Manager, previously circulated noting it was a good report.



129. ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairman referred to the proposed review of ward membership and invited member's comments. There was discussion about timings and the formation of a working party which councillors supported. The Town Council would review numbers and governance in slower time, in line with District.

130. ANY ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The Chairman informed councillors that members of the Canteleu Twinning Association were visiting New Milton from 10-13 May 2018 and encouraged attendance at the cream tea event in their honour at the Guide Hut at Ballard Lake on Saturday 12 May at 3.30pm.

131. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be the **Annual Town Meeting on Monday 23 April 2018** commencing 6.30 pm and the **Annual Meeting of the Council** will be held on **Tuesday 8 May 2018** at 6.30 pm in the Town Hall, 2 Ashley Road, New Milton

The Chairman closed the public part of the meeting at 8.17 pm and proposed going into private session to discuss the following two items.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

The Chairman moved that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business pursuant to section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

132. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan document was circulated in its entirety noting the consultation dates will be circulated and members supported this revised document.

Acknowledgement was given to Alan Watson for his efforts working on the Neighbourhood Plan website and to the Town Development Manager for working on this project during the last 4 months.

133. MEMORIAL HALL

Cllr Blunden referred to the HCC vision for the redevelopment of the Memorial Hall which had now stalled without any positive news for this venue. It was suggested that the Town Council pick up the initiative, setting up a charity with trustees, to get something done and review the most appropriate funding sources which could be Libor assisted.



A working party would look at parameters and guidance for commercial viability over the coming year.

The Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Distribution:

Town Councillors

District Councillors Mrs C V Ward, Mrs J L Cleary

County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter and K Mans

New Milton Library

New Milton Police

Press, Focus & NMRA - Alan Watson